

30 Mar 62

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Survival Kit Problems

Twelve live parachute jumps have been made at the 6511th Test Group, NAF, El Centro, California in testing the two-stage parachute under development. The survival kit, manufactured by [redacted] was part of the equipment worn in each of these jumps.

Problems encountered with the kit were as follows:

- a. On six occasions, the kit hung up momentarily on the left side after the release handle was pulled.
- b. In one instance the release handle would not come free and the jumper had to hit the ground with the kit still attached to his body.
- c. After releasing a kit it falls away on a twenty-five foot lanyard, but stays attached to the jumper's harness. The rate of descent of the jumper is approximately twenty feet per second. Under these conditions several kits have been damaged by contact with the ground. This damage was severe enough to necessitate returning them to the manufacturer for repair. Type of damage has been the kit splitting or cracking.

Actions taken as a result of the above problems are as follows:

- a. Chief engineer of [redacted] was called to El Centro and a series of suspension tests were conducted. As a result the timing sequence for kit release was changed. This change appears to be reliable, via additional suspension tests, and will be incorporated in all kits.
- b. On the one occasion where the kit release handle would not come free, it was attributed to a burr in the mechanism. All kits are being checked for overall quality control.
- c. [redacted] has agreed to reinforce all kits to insure adequate strength.

The above modifications will be tested on future live jumps.

[redacted]
Capt. USAF
HQ AFSC